AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1210 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1934 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 24, NO. 25

"We Do Our Part"

No man ever had genius who did not aim to execute more than he was able.—Sir Humphry Davy.

Editorials

Strike Right Affirmed

The undercover propaganda seeking to curb by statute law the right of working men and women to refuse to sell the use of their labor power to profit-grabbing employers whenever the workers regard such action as necessary to promote their general economic welfare received two setbacks in labor laws enacted at the close of the 1934 session of the Seventy-third Congress.

Limiting this inherent right is frequently sought by employers who petition judges to issue injunctions restraining workers from striking and vigorously conducting strikes.

The first blow at the anti-strike scheme is found in the Crosser Amendment to the Railway Labor Law. After setting up machinery to guarantee the right of railroad employes to organize in bona fide unions without interference from employers and outlining the enforcement procedure, the amendment says:

> **"Provided, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to require an individual employe to render labor or service without his consent, nor shall anything in this Act be construed to make the quitting of his labor by an individual employe an illegal act; nor shall any court issue any process to compel the performance by an individual employe of such labor or service without his consent."**

By this amendment, and without mincing words, the Congress of the United States plainly and positively informs judges of high and low degree that they are debarred by Federal law from issuing injunctions or other court orders which either directly or indirectly limit the right of railroad employes to strike.

The second curb on those employer dictators, who would like to see American workers chained by law to their tasks without the right to withhold their labor power whenever they see fit to do so, is contained in the La Follette Amendment to the new Labor Disputes Act, which reads:

> **"Nothing in this resolution shall prevent or impede or diminish in any way the right of employes to strike or engage in other concerted activities."**

The right to strike is the right of working men and women to refuse to sell the use of their labor power—their power to create wealth and perform service—to those who own and control industry, who buy it for the sole purpose of employing it to produce profits for the exclusive benefit of coupon clippers, dividend receivers and rent grabbers. To limit this right in any way is to deprive the workers of their major final weapon of defense and offense in preserving their economic liberties.

Congress did well in reaffirming the right of labor to refuse to work, to strike, whenever in labor's belief the exercise of that right is absolutely necessary to protect and enlarge the workers' economic liberties.

Railroad Company Unions Smashed

The Emergency Railroad Transportation Act, passed by the Special Session of the Seventy-third Congress, in 1933, contained a provision which made it unlawful for railroad companies to use railroad funds to maintain "so-called company unions."

Despite this positive mandate, railroad officials in many instances continued to support these economic monstrosities. But this policy, so openly against the rights of railroad employes, appears to be definitely arrested by the Crosser Bill amending the Railway Labor Act, passed by the 1934 session of Congress just before it adjourned.

In their zeal to nullify the intent of the Special Session of Congress to ban the company union, railroad officials and their high-salaried attorneys resorted to sophistical nomenclature to disguise the real purpose of these fake labor organizations. They were labeled "employe representation" plans, "employes' mutual benefit" societies, and given numerous other smoke-screen names in the attempt to evade the meaning of the statute.

The Crosser Act puts an end to this chicanery by clearly defining just what is meant by the term company union, and then proscribing it. Here is the definition:

> **"The term 'company union' means any group or association of employes formed for the purpose of collective bargaining, whether or not same shall be formally organized, which was formed at the suggestion, with the aid, or under the influence of any carrier, or its or their officers or agents, and/or whose constitution, by-laws or actions are under any control or influence of any carrier or carriers, or its or their officers or agents."**

This definition of a company union appears to be so explicit that the legal sophists employed by the railroad executives, even though they be endowed with the combined skill of their ancient counterparts, Protagoras of Abdera and Hippias of Elias, will be unable to weaken it with their adroit and specious reasoning.

After giving this clear definition, the Crosser Act declares that it shall be unlawful for railroad companies to use railroad funds "in maintaining company unions," prohibits them from requiring persons seeking employment "to sign any contract or agreement promising to join or not to join a company union," and imposes a fine of not less than $1,000 nor more than $20,000, or imprisonment for not more than six months or both fine and imprisonment for any "carrier, its officers or agents," found guilty of violating the provision.

Evidently the Crosser Railroad Labor Act of 1934 sentences and executes beyond resuscitation the company union in the railroad industry. It is regrettable that Congress did not enact the original Wagner Labor Disputes Bill, and thus smash the company union monstrosity in all industries.

RAILROAD LABOR BILL ENACTED BY CONGRESS

Creates National Adjustment Board to Settle Industrial Disputes—Outlaws Company Unions—Railroad Executives and Their Legislative Spokesmen Opposed the Measure.

(Reprinted from AFL Weekly News Service Special Release of June 19, 1934)

The enactment of the Crosser Railroad Labor Bill into law was brought about on June 18 during the last day session of the Seventy-third Congress, by the determined attitude of members of the Senate who favored the measure under the militant leadership of Senator Dill of Washington, author of the bill; Senator La Follette of Wisconsin and Senator Wheeler of Montana, supported by all of the legislative representatives of the organized labor movement.

The bill had already passed the House of Representatives and had been favorably reported by the Senate Commerce Committee, but a minority filibuster led by Senators Hastings of Delaware threatened to kill it because of adjournment plans.

Railroads are prevented from interfering in any manner whatsoever with employes joining or refusing to join any organization, and are prohibited from using railroad funds to finance company unions.

The choice of representatives of any craft for collective bargaining must be determined by a majority of employes voting on the question.

The mediation machinery, according to its sponsors, designed to rewrite the Railway Labor Act and make far-reaching and important changes in operation of the adjustment boards to settle grievances and the work of the mediation board.

National Adjustment Boards

The bill creates a national adjustment board with four divisions, each composed of an equal number of representatives of railroads and employes and each permitted to select a neutral member. Establishment of regional or system boards of adjustment are permitted if the carriers and employes wish to set up such boards voluntarily. Further the present Board of Mediation of five members is supplanted by a national mediation board of only three.

Voluntary Settlements

Voluntary settlement of disputes is hoped for through the proposal for the establishment of regional or system adjustment boards. Backers of the bill believe the fact there is a compulsory board to which grievances may be taken will stimulate decrease settlement of troubles by the voluntary adjustment method.

Joseph B. Eastman, Federal Coordinator of Railroads, wrote the measure with the full knowledge and approval in the face of expected opposition. President Roosevelt did not consider it feasible to press for its enactment.

Opposition Senators Defeated

Senate sentiment for the bill was, however, overwhelming. Senators La Follette and Wheeler served notice that adjournment would be prevented until a vote was had on the measure. A contest vote to bring the bill up, only Senators Hastings and Norbeck objected, while 76 Senators clamored for a test. From then on, the administration leaders were forced to wear Mr. Hastings down until the final vote could be assured, which was accomplished after a long struggle.

Pennsylvania Railroad Criticized

Opponents of the measure declared it would break down the company union plan and would abrogate contractual relations between employes and carriers which have existed for years. It would, they asserted, foment strife in the railroad world where peace has reigned for eight years.

Charges that the Pennsylvania Railroad was the bill's chief antagonist were made on the floor, particularly by Senator Couzens. He produced a letter from G. Le Boutillier, chairman of a special committee, and a representative of the Long Island, to show that objections in Mr. Le Boutillier's letter were copied almost verbatim in the minority report.

JOSEPH M. RICHIE, PHILADELPHIA LABOR LEADER, DIES AT 64

Philadelphia, Pa.—Joseph M. Richie, general representative of the American Federation of Labor in this city for 22 years, died on June 15 in the Presbyterian Hospital here of pneumonia. He was 64.

Mr. Richie had been taken ill while at his office.

In addition to his other labor duties he was secretary-treasurer of the Stained and Leaded Glass Workers' Local No. 556.

He had been particularly hard-working in the dispute of the Edward G. Budd Manufacturing Company over the NRA. He had accused Mr. Budd of failing to live up to his agreement and of posting an inaccurate version of several letters in a statement concerning the Budd strike.

He had been just as quick in censuring General Johnson for his interference in the Budd Company election.

During the past few months when new codes were being framed, he had worked day and night to adjust amicably the differences between employers and had sought to avoid all possible strikes. All his life he had been a strong champion of labor.

Mr. Richie was born in Philadelphia in 1870. He was a member of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers of America for approximately 40 years.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Frances Richie, four daughters and one son.

Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, represented the A. F. of L. at the funeral, which was held at Mother of Sorrows Church.

CONGRESS ENACTS NEW LABOR DISPUTES LAW

Federal Board Is Given Power to Probe Grievances Arising Under Labor Section of Recovery Act and Hold Elections of Employes to Choose Collective Bargaining Representatives—Right to Strike Preserved.

(Reprinted from AFL Weekly News Service Special Release of June 19, 1934)

On June 16, 1934, the last legislative day before adjournment, the United States Congress passed the joint resolution giving President Roosevelt authority to appoint a board or boards to investigate disputes arising under the labor section of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

The President promptly signed the measure.

The board or boards authorized by the law are accorded power to hold elections to determine the free choice of employes for agencies for collective bargaining.

The resolution was a compromise for the original Wagner Labor Disputes Bill, which was opposed by what was probably the most compact nation-wide lobby of antilabor employers ever marshaled against a Federal measure designed to protect the workers in their fundamental rights.

La Follette Urges Wagner Bill

Senator La Follette of Wisconsin offered the Wagner bill as a substitute after the compromise, at the request of Senator Wagner, withdrew it.

Senator Wagner expressed deep regret because the last-minute leaders in Congress had killed his bill. Under the circumstances, he said, "the President feels that at this time this temporary measure ought to be passed to relieve an emergency situation." Therefore he would support the President in the hope that the Wagner bill or a better one would receive more gracious consideration from the Congress elected next November.

Declaring that he was ready to remain in Washington as long as necessary to make the labor section of the Recovery Act of real benefit to the workers by enacting the Wagner bill, Senator La Follette said he would nevertheless yield to the wishes of Senator Wagner, although it was very embarrassing for him to do so, and withdraw his amendment, to substitute the Wagner bill for the resolution.

Strike Amendment Adopted

The Senator from Wisconsin did, however, insist on an amendment which declared that nothing in the resolution "shall prevent or impede or diminish in any way the right of employes to strike or engage in any other concerted activities." On the roll call three Senators—Hughes of New Jersey, Hastings of Delaware and Bailey of North Carolina—voted against the amendment but afterwards changed their votes from "no" to "yes."

Wagner Approves Election Plan

In a statement explaining his support of the resolution to the Senate, Mr. Wagner said:

"The sole purpose of the joint resolution, as I understand it, is to permit a board or boards established by the President to hold elections of employes in an atmosphere free from coercion, interference or restraint that is prohibited by Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act as incorporated in the resolution.

"This is one of the provisions contained in the bill I introduced," he added. "Boards thus empowered would be able to take a great step forward in clarifying the industrial atmosphere and abetting the recovery program."

MISS PERKINS PLACED IN CHARGE OF STEEL DISPUTE BY ROOSEVELT

President Authorizes Her to Represent Him in Negotiating With Iron and Steel Institute For Acceptance of Organized Labor's Plan to Settle Threatened Strike.

Washington. — President Roosevelt, after receiving the demands of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers for the settlement of the labor dispute in the steel industry without a strike, turned the entire proposal over to Secretary of Labor Perkins with full power to represent him and take whatever action she deemed proper.

The union's plan, which was presented to the special convention of the union at Pittsburgh by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and adopted by that body, was given to the President by the International Executive Board of the Association consisting of M. F. Tighe, president; Louis Leonard, secretary-treasurer; Thomas Gillis and Edward W. Miller, vice presidents. The board was accompanied by President Green.

Union's Four-Point Plan

The four-point plan accepted by the union asked that the President appoint an impartial board of three to receive complaints and grievances from the industry and arrange for collective bargaining conferences with employers. The board would be empowered to hold elections by employes to choose collective bargaining representatives. All of grievances over wages, hours and conditions of employment would be settled by negotiations between management and duly accredited representatives of the workers, with power in the board to adjust unsettled questions. Finally, if the union's plan is accepted by the steel barons the impending strike would be declared off.

Roosevelt's Statement

In announcing that he had selected Miss Perkins to settle the entire controversy, the President said:

"We have discussed with the Secretary of Labor every detail of the proposal that has been made by a committee of the Amalgamated Steel, Iron and Tin Workers on behalf of employes in the steel industry. The Secretary has described to me also the proposal that the employers in the steel industry made last week to the administrator for NRA.

"It is my hope that some method will be found which will avert a strike which are in controversy and to preserve orderly collective bargaining without sacrificing any principle that is involved.

"I have referred the proposal to the Secretary of Labor, Miss Frances Perkins, and to undertake any negotiations that seem advisable. The Secretary is therefore empowered on my behalf to take whatever action seems advisable under the circumstances and will of course consult and cooperate with all other agencies of Government concerned."

Green and Tighe Pleased

In commenting on the President's action President Green of the A. F. of L. said:

"The manufacturers can go ahead with your plan either through voluntary acceptance or through the medium of a board as provided under the Wagner bill. The President treated us very nicely and cordially, and we had a very satisfactory interview."

Michael F. Tighe, veteran chief of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, also approved the President's action. He said:

"I am going back to Pittsburgh much happier than when I came to Washington."

Steel Strike Suspended; Green's Plan for Mediation Body Selected By Roosevelt Is Adopted by Union

Board Would Have Power to Arbitrate Disputes and Hold Elections for Collective Bargaining Agencies to Deal With Steel Companies—Union Officials Give Power to Call Strike in Case Plan Falls Through.

(Reprinted from AFL Weekly News Service Special Release of June 19, 1934)

The special convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, held in Pittsburgh, Pa., on June 15, suspended the impending steel strike, which was scheduled to begin at midnight on June 15, and adopted the conciliation plan proposed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, calling for an impartial board of three men appointed by President Roosevelt to consider the grievances which the steel workers included in their strike demands.

Strike Right Reserved

The convention left the way open for a strike call if the proposal "is not accepted by the President and the Iron and Steel Institute" by adding a provision that in case the plan fell through the international officers are delegated with power to call a strike at a time which the officers will set."

The convention appointed a committee consisting of the association's executive board to lay the plan before President Roosevelt in Washington.

The board proposed in Mr. Green's plan would have power to investigate and adjust complaints of alleged violations of the fair competition code of the iron and steel industry and of the labor provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act, and arbitrate disputes arising under the code and the Act. The board would also be authorized to hold elections for collective bargaining representatives, the men selected by the workers to be recognized by the steel companies.

A. F. of L.'s Interest in Strike

In opening his address Mr. Green told the delegates he came before them wearing the badge of the United Mine Workers of America, "With this badge," he said, "I am sure I can talk to you as a miner to a fellow trade unionist. As man to man we can counsel together in this emergency."

"The officers and members of the American Federation of Labor," he continued, "are deeply interested in the deliberations of your convention and in what you may be taking under consideration. We are thankful for the friends and the assistance which we received through a settlement of the industrial controversy which has arisen, through the acceptance and application of the plan herewith briefly outlined.

"I am hopeful that the delegates in attendance at this convention to accept the recommendations herewith submitted and adopt the Green-Lewis proposal, with a guarantee that, if accepted, no strike will occur in the steel industry."

Presents Conciliation Plan

"In rejecting this plan of settlement, the economic and social welfare of the steel workers, as well as public interest, requires the submission of a counter-proposal looking to the settlement of the threatened strike by peaceful means on the part of the officers and delegates to this convention.

"It is therefore out of a deep sense of duty and public obligation that I present to you my recommendation as a practical, just and fair plan of settlement of the threatened strike."

Strike Should Be Avoided

After reading the text of his conciliation board plan, Mr. Green continued:

"I am offering this counsel and advice in all good faith and in all sincerity of purpose. The interests of the steel workers and their families are of transcendent importance to the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor.

"I am firmly convinced that all efforts possible should be put forth to avoid an industrial conflict in the steel industry at this time. The highest and best interests of the steel workers, their friends and the general public will be served through a settlement of the industrial controversy which has arisen, through the acceptance and application of the plan herewith briefly outlined.

"I am hopeful that the delegates in attendance at this convention to accept the recommendations herewith submitted and adopt the Green-Lewis proposal, with a guarantee that, if accepted, no strike will occur in the steel industry."

TEXT OF FEDERAL LABOR DISPUTES LAW

Empowers Government Boards to Hold Elections by Employes to Choose Collective Bargaining Agencies—Fine or Jail Term Prescribed for Employers Who Interfere.

(Reprinted from AFL Weekly News Service Special Release of June 19, 1934)

The new labor disputes law enacted by the United States Congress on June 16, 1934, authorizes the President to appoint a board or boards to investigate labor disputes arising under the National Industrial Recovery Act and conduct secret-ballot elections by employes to choose agencies for collective bargaining as provided in Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act, with a mandatory injunction against any being used to impede the right of working men and women to strike.

The text of the new law follows:

Investigate Labor Controversies

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to further effectuate the policy of Title I of the National Industrial Recovery Act, and in the exercise of the powers therein and herein conferred, the President is authorized to establish a board or boards authorized and directed to investigate issues, facts, practices, or activities of employers or employes in any controversies arising under Section 7-A of said Act or which are burdening or obstructing, or threatening to burden or obstruct the free flow of interstate commerce, the salaries, compensations, and expenses of the board or boards and necessary employes being paid as provided in Section 2 of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

Elections by Secret Ballot

"Sec. 2. Such board so established is hereby empowered, when it shall appear in the public interest, to order and conduct an election by a secret ballot of any of the employes of any employer, to determine by what person or persons or organization they desire to be represented in order to exercise the right of employes to organize and to select their representatives for the purpose of collective bargaining as defined in Section 7-A of said Act and now incorporated herein.

Compulsory Powers

"For the purposes of such election such a board shall have the authority to order the production of such pertinent documents or the appearance of such persons as it may deem necessary to order oath, as it may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution. Any order issued by such a board under the authority of this section may, upon application of such board or upon petition of the person or persons to whom such order is directed, be enforced or reviewed, as the case may be, in the same manner, so far as applicable, as is provided in the case of an order of the Federal Trade Commission under the Federal Trade Commission Act.

"Sec. 3. Any such board, with the approval of the President, may prescribe such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution with reference to the investigations authorized in Section 1 and to assure freedom from coercion in respect to all elections.

Penalties Are Prescribed

"Sec. 4. Any person who shall knowingly violate any rule or regulation authorized under Section 3 of this resolution or impede or interfere with any member or agent of any board established under this resolution in the performance of his duties, shall be punishable by a fine of not more than $1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

"Sec. 5. This resolution shall cease to be in effect, and any board or boards established hereunder shall cease to exist, on June 16, 1935, or sooner if the President shall by proclamation, or the Congress shall by joint resolution, declare that the emergency recognized by Section 1 of the National Industrial Recovery Act has ended.

Strike Right Affirmed

"Sec. 6. Nothing in this resolution shall prevent or impede or diminish in any way the right of employes to strike or engage in other concerted activities."

GREEN'S MEDIATION PROPOSAL FOR LABOR DISPUTES IN STEEL

(Reprinted from AFL Weekly News Service Special Release of June 19, 1934)

Following is the proposal, presented by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, for the settlement of the impending steel strike, adopted by the special convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, convened in Pittsburgh, Pa., on June 15 to consider the strike question:

"1. I recommend that an impartial board of three members be appointed by the President of the United States, clothed with authority to act as follows:

"(a) To receive complaints and to investigate and adjust on the basis of such complaints any violation of the labor provisions of the code for the iron and steel industry;

Power to Conciliate in Disputes

"(b) To mediate and conciliate in any dispute arising between employers and employes presented by representatives of employes selected under Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act;

"(c) To offer their services as arbitrators in any labor dispute between employer and employes under said code, provided such dispute is voluntarily submitted for arbitration by both such parties;

Collective Bargaining Representatives

"(d) To hear and determine any matter of discrimination, grievance or discharge of any employe in violation of Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

"2. In order that the workers employed in the steel mills may exercise the right of organization free from intimidation and coercion on the part of employers and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, the impartial board created by the President shall be clothed with authority to order and hold elections under and subject to such rules and supervision, and the organization selected by a majority of the employes to be the representative of all such employes to be handled and adjusted in the manner and method prescribed herein.

"3. In adopting the plan the convention left the way open for a strike call if the proposal "is not accepted by the President and the Iron and Steel Institute" by adding a provision that in case the plan fell through the international officers are delegated with power to call a strike at a time which the officers will set.

Direct Negotiation

"4. That all grievances and complaints regarding wages, hours and conditions of employment be settled through negotiations between the management and the representatives of the employes, or their agents, in the same manner herein prescribed for collective bargaining purposes. Any questions in controversy which cannot be settled through collective bargaining to be referred to an arbitrator selected by the impartial board herein provided for, for final determination.

"4. In the event the recommendations herein submitted are accepted by all parties at interest, the threatened strike be declared off with the understanding that all questions in controversy will be handled and adjusted in the manner and method prescribed herein."

In adopting the plan the convention left the way open for a strike call if the proposal "is not accepted by the President and the Iron and Steel Institute" by adding a provision that in case the plan fell through the officials of the union are authorized to call a strike.

Tomato Growers in Texas Strike for Price Boost

Jacksonville, Tex.—Rebelling against low prices which threatened them with bankruptcy, tomato growers in East Texas, the world's greatest tomato producing region, stopped a $2,000,000 industry until their demands for two cents a pound wholesale were met.

BUILDING WORKERS ARE UNITED IN A. F. OF L.

Carpenters, Electrical Workers, and Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers Affiliate With Building Trades Department —Membership Now 800,000.

Washington.—The membership of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor was increased from about 400,000 to 800,000 by the reaffiliation of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and the International Union of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers, declared M. J. McDonough, president of the Department.

The reaffiliations were brought about by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, who urged the necessity of these unions to take this action because of the paramount necessity of the "development of solidarity and cooperation" among building trades organizations following the recent adoption of industrial codes of fair competition applicable to the building industry.

Mr. Green pointed out the reaffiliation of the three international unions, with the Building Trades Department, means that each one "would be entitled to all the rights and privileges" of an affiliated organization with the Department and to "representation with all its rights and privileges" in the conventions of the Department.

The application for membership was signed by Mr. McDonough and by general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, D. W. Tracy, international president, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America, Harry C. Bates, first vice president, Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union of America.

In explaining the importance of the reaffiliation, Mr. McDonough said:

"This unification nationally solidifies the building trades movement. Every organization affiliated with the building trades is now in the Building Trades Department and all 'now hence-forth operate as a unit.

"This places the Department in such a position that jurisdictional disputes can be adjusted within the Department. It will also avoid conflicts and should also have the effect of unifying them locally.

"The consolidation is for the purpose of harmonizing the building industry and not of disturbing it."

The reaffiliation was accomplished in two different meetings at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor. President Green first met the executives of the three unions. These executives then joined McDonough and completed the necessary affiliation.

All three unions agreed to the jurisdictions formerly belonged to the Building Trades Department, but have been out of it for several years. They have, however, always been affiliated with the A. F. of L. itself.

CONGRESS BANS RAILROAD COMPANY UNIONS AND YELLOW DOG CONTRACT

New Law Affirms Right of Employes to Organize in Bona Fide Unions Without Interference by Employers —Penalties of from $1,000 to $20,000 and Jail Terms Prescribed for Violation of Statute.

Washington.—A copper-riveted mandate guaranteeing the right of the railway employes to organize in bona fide unions, without interference from railway officials, and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, with the majority in any craft determining who shall be the representative of the craft, and an equally copper-riveted mandate prohibiting railway officials from imposing either company unions or yellow dog contracts on railroad employes, are among the outstanding provisions of the amendment to the Railway Labor Act, passed by Congress on June 18, the last day of the session.

After declaring that all disputes between the railroads, which are called "carriers," and their employes shall preferably be adjusted by representatives of the two parties, respectively, the law lays down the following rules to guide both railway employes and railway officials:

Right to Organize Affirmed

"Representatives, for the purposes of this Act, shall be designated by the respective parties without interference, influence, or coercion by either party over the designation of representatives by the other; and neither party shall in any way interfere with, influence, or coerce the other in its choice of representatives.

"Representatives of employes for the purposes of this Act need not be persons in the employ of the carrier, and no carrier shall, by interference, influence, or coercion seek in any manner to prevent the designation by its employes as their representatives of those who or which are not employes of the carrier.

"Employes shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing. The majority of any craft or class of employes shall have the right to determine who shall be the representative of the craft or class for the purposes of this Act.

Company Union Declared Illegal

"No carrier, its officers or agents, shall deny or in any way question the right of its employes to join, organize, or assist in organizing the labor organization of their choice, and it shall be unlawful for any carrier to infringe in any way with the organization of its employes, or to use the funds of the carrier in maintaining or assisting or contributing to any labor organization, labor representative or other agency of collective bargaining, or in performing any work therefor, or to influence or coerce employes in order to induce them to join or remain or not to join or remain members of any labor organization, or to deduct from the wages of employes any dues, fees, assessments, or other contributions payable to labor organizations, or to collect or to assist in the collection of any dues, fees, assessments, or other contributions.

Individual Conferences Permitted

"Provided, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit a carrier or carriers and an employe or employes, individually, or local representatives of employes from conferring with management during working hours without loss of time, or to prohibit a carrier from furnishing free transportation to its employes while engaged in the business of a labor organization.

Yellow Dog Contract Outlawed

"No carrier, its officers, or agents shall require any person seeking employment to sign any contract or agreement promising to join or not to join a labor organization; and if any such contract heretofore or hereafter signed is violative of the terms of this Act, then such carrier shall notify the employes by an appropriate writing that such contract has been discarded and is no longer binding on them in any way.

The law declares that the "willful failure or refusal" of a carrier or its agents to comply with these rules shall be a misdemeanor, subject, on conviction, to a fine of not less than $1,000 nor more than $20,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both, in the discretion of the court, provided that each day of failure or refusal shall constitute a separate offense.